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tion between the length and breadth of the leaflets is noticed in measuring, as well as in height and diameter of stalk. What peculiarities of soil and exposure cause such large growths in our plants can scarcely be decided, but the fact remains that many of our plants think nothing of attaining a size at least double that allowed by law.—M. S. C.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.—*American Journal of Science and Arts*, August.—Dr Gray has an article on "Some Points of Botanical Nomenclature," suggested by some correspondence between a Belgian botanist, A. Cogniaux, and Alph. DeCandolle, printed in the *Bulletin de la Societe Royale de Botanique de Belgique*, 1876. "M. Cogniaux ask some questions, rising out of the way in which genera, their synonyms, and some species are succinctly dealt with or referred to in the *Genera Plantarum* now in course of publication." "The fact is, that the name of an author, or its abridgment, appended to the name of a genus, or to a specific name, is mere bibliography, stands in the place of a citation of author, work, page, etc." "This suffix of authors' names is not a matter of homage or sentiment, or justice, but a matter of fact, i. e., of historical record. The guiding principle to this record is, that we are not to make an author say that which he has not said." Hence, when a new genus is made and a number of species formerly belonging to other genera are said to be contained in it, the names of the original authors of those species should not be appended to the specific names, but the name of the person who arranged them under the new genus.

*American Naturalist*, August.—Mr. C. E. Bessey, of Ames, Iowa, has an interesting article recording "Observations on *Silphium laciniatum*, the so-called Compass Plant." Six tables are given giving the bearings of ninety-three leaves. About thirty per cent. of the leaves observed did not vary more than five degrees, forty-two per cent. not more than ten degrees, and ninety per cent. not more than forty-five degrees from the meridian. The variation of fifty-four of the leaves was to the east, and thirty-nine to the west. Many of the leaves had rotated upon their petioles in assuming their positions and most of these had rotated with the sun. One leaf was found to have rotated through at least 270 degrees of arc to reach its final position. Mr. Bessey has also made some examinations with his microscope to see whether the number of stomata upon the two surfaces of the leaf had anything to do with its polarity. His observations all led to the conclusion that the stomata had nothing to do with it, and we are still in the dark as to the cause.

*Field and Forest*, July.—The leading article is by Prof. J. W. Chickering, Jr., on "A Botanical Trip to Virginia." The article contains quite a list of good "finds," and a comparison of the flora of Norfolk with that of Washington. In the minutes of the Potomac-side Naturalists' Club mention is made of Dr. Vasey reading a paper upon the distribution of trees in the United States, with the promise of its publication in full in a future number.

*Gardener's Monthly*, August, is full of interesting notes for florists and horticulturists. A brief article on "Rare Plants of Southern Utah," and the notes on Forestry, are of special interest.

*Catalogue of Phanogamous and Aerogenous Plants* found growing wild in the State of Michigan, compiled by Elmore Palmer, M. D. of Dexter, Michigan. This catalogue was mislaid or it would have been noticed in a former number. It is a neat pamphlet of 16 pages, containing a list of over 500 genera and about 1,300 species.

*The Botanical Index*, July.—Published by L. B. Case, Richmond, Ind. This is an eight page quarterly devoted to the interests of florists. This number contains a discussion of Lawns and Lawn plants.